

and their regions, including the following five focus areas:

(1) Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics, such as—

(i) Product, taste, quality, and appearance;

(ii) Environmental responses and tolerances;

(iii) Nutrient management, including plant nutrient uptake efficiency;

(iv) Pest and disease management, including resistance to pests and diseases resulting in reduced application management strategies; and

(v) Enhanced phytonutrient content.

(2) Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators.

(3) Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing).

(4) New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening.

(5) Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce.

(b) *Other.* CSREES will award research and extension, including integrated, grants to eligible institutions listed in § 3430.203. In addition to the focus areas identified in this section, CSREES may include additional activities or focus areas that will further address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry. Some of these activities or focus areas may be identified by stakeholder groups or by CSREES in response to emerging critical needs of the specialty crop industry.

#### § 3430.202 Definitions.

The definitions applicable to the program under this subpart include:

*Integrated project* means a project that incorporates the research and extension components of the agricultural knowledge system around a problem area or activity.

*Specialty crop* means fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

*Trans-disciplinary* means a multi-discipline approach that brings biological and physical scientists together with economists and social scientists to address challenges in a holistic manner.

#### § 3430.203 Eligibility.

Eligible applicants for the grant program implemented under this subpart include: Federal agencies, national laboratories; colleges and universities (offering associate's or higher degrees); research institutions and organizations; private organizations or corporations; State agricultural experiment stations; individuals; and groups consisting of 2 or more entities identified in this sentence.

#### § 3430.204 Project types and priorities.

For each RFA, CSREES may develop and include the appropriate project types and focus areas (in addition to the five focus areas identified in § 3430.201) based on the critical needs of the specialty crop industry as identified through stakeholder input and deemed appropriate by CSREES. Of the funds made available each fiscal year, not less than 10 percent of these funds shall be allocated for each of the five focus areas identified in § 3430.201. In making awards for this program, CSREES will give higher priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, and multidisciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate the results to producers and the public.

#### § 3430.205 Funding restrictions.

(a) *Prohibition against construction.* Funds made available under this subpart shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

(b) *Indirect costs.* Subject to § 3430.54, indirect costs are allowable.

#### § 3430.206 Matching requirements.

(a) *Requirement.* Grantees are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to the amount provided by the Federal government. The matching contribution